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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

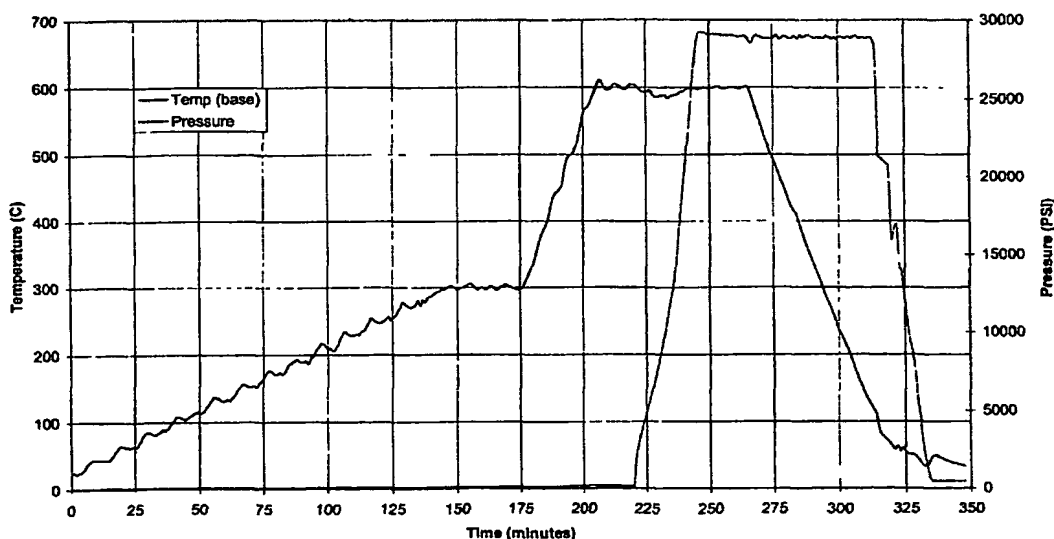
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(54) Title: ISOSTATIC PRESSURE ASSISTED WAFER BONDING METHOD



(57) **Abstract:** In the invention, wafers are initially weakly bonded. The weak bond is sufficient to impede penetration of an isostatic pressure transmitting media, e.g., a gas or liquid, into any region between the wafers. The weak bond also permits handling. Weak bonds are strengthened, or new bonds formed, by heating and pressing together the weakly bonded wafers by application of isostatic pressure. By the invention, weak interfacial bonds may be strengthened.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NoneElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
None**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-------------|--|--|
| X — Y | US 4,124,401 A (Lee et al) 07 November 1978 (07.11.1978), see entire document. | 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18-20 8, 14, 17 |
| X — Y | US 5,769,986 A (Hagedorn et al) 23 June 1998 (23.06.1998), see entire document. | 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20 8, 11, 14, 17, 18 |
| X — Y | US 6,261,927 B1 (Natarajan et al) 17 July 2001 (17.07.2001), see entire document. | 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 19, 20 14-18 |



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